



Buffalo County Emergency Management 2012 Summary



Winter of 2012 Mild and Scenic

2012 Emergency Management Overview

This is an overview of the 2012 annual report and its purpose is to highlight the major activities of the Buffalo County Emergency Management office.

Looking back on 2012 one might believe it was a quiet and slow weather year for Emergency Management in Buffalo County; and if you thought that, you would be correct. In 2011 the Emergency Management office spent approximately six months planning and preparing for a 100 year flood but in 2012 Buffalo County, and much of the state, was placed in a drought emergency. With a slow weather year in 2012, the Emergency Management office was able to shift from response and recovery and focus on planning and preparedness efforts. The year of 2012 has been the year of training and exercises as well as planning and plan writing such as:

- 22 different training events
- 18 plus exercises were either attended or conducted
- Over 25 plus plans were reviewed and updated
- 4 new plans were completed
- 3 new plans have been started
- 3 MOU's / MOA's were also completed or renewed for the SCPET Region, I-Paws program and the Central Platte NRD

The month of May 2012 was the busiest month of the year for severe weather activity in Buffalo County. In May alone the county encountered high winds, heavy rain, hail, tornados, and the National Weather Service issued seven watches and 20 warnings with one tornado warning issued.

In 2012 there were no significant weather damage reported to the Emergency Management office. However, the EOC was opened, staffed, and operational 31 different times in 2012 due to weather related events.

There were a total of 49 watches, warnings and advisories for the 2012 year. This is about half of what we observed in 2011 which had a total of 84 warnings and watches for the year.

Winter temperatures were again average to slightly higher than average in 2012; however, 18 days were recorded in the single digits, with six of those days being zero or below, recorded in December and February. February recorded the coldest day of the year at -8.

There were 4 winter weather advisories or storms warnings in 2012, two in February, two in December. The month of February recorded approximately 10 inches of snow and in December there was approximately 11 inches of snow.

The Emergency Management office was not quite as busy with grants in 2012. Homeland Security Grant allocations are broken down into three general segments.

1. Law Enforcement
2. Fire Departments (MOU Hazmat Teams)
3. General emergency management operations

The SCPET Regional Law Enforcement Agencies started the new I-PAD/MDT (mobile data) projects. All Homeland Security funds have gone straight to the Local Law Enforcement Agencies in Buffalo County bypassing the Emergency Management office; however, all Law enforcement agencies in Buffalo County are responsible for the projects, purchasing, training, and tracking of the equipment.

The MOU Hazmat Team Homeland Security funds are the same way as the Law Enforcement funds. Buffalo County does not have an MOU Hazmat Team and does not receive any of these funds.

The General Emergency Management Homeland Security Funds have all been used at the Regional level to support the public education campaign and the regional interoperable communications projects. Buffalo County does not manage or track these funds. All Homeland security grants through 2009 have been completed and closed out. The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) continues to support the Local Emergency Management offices up to 50%. This grant has become much more involved over the last 2 years with the grant process going digital with additional requirements asked of the Emergency Management office in order to receive funding. This grant is always evolving and changing but in general this grant continues to fund less of the Emergency Management day to day operation while its funding levels continue to drop year after year.

The Regional Public Education campaign for Emergency Preparedness made major progress in 2012. The "Be Ready Nebraska" web page was completed and several public education commercials were aired on TV and radio during the year. Locally, Buffalo County Emergency Management conducted speaking engagements as well as PSA's for radio and TV. This is a mandatory requirement for the Emergency Management positions across the state. We continue to strive to move forward in this area. The Region Public Education campaign will help Emergency Management reach out to the general public for emergency planning and preparedness activities.

There were seven hazardous material spills that required various levels of response from first responder agencies needing cleanup or mitigation over the last year.

1. January 26, 2012, approximately 30 to 50 gallons of diesel was spilled at mile marker 272 on Interstate 80.
2. On May 2, 2012, Leprino Foods in Ravenna reported an anhydrous ammonia leak at the cheese plant. Approximately 252 pounds of chemical was released into the air. Two vendors that were working in the area were sent to the hospital as a result of the release.
3. On May 9, 2012, approximately 4000 gallons of 32% liquid Nitrogen was released into the road ditch at 235th and Cherry Avenue due to the turning over of a tractor trailer.
4. May 11, 2012, a pickup carrying four separate chemicals overturned at 160th and Hawk Road. All chemicals were forms of weed/grass killer and designed to sterilize the ground.
5. May 27, 2012, the Kearney Fire Responded to Brown Transfer Company in Kearney at 911 East 11th Street; a semi-trailer backed into one of the loading docks and was on fire. Upon arrival it was noted that there was 6820 pounds of Potassium Hydroxide Sodium Hydroxide on board. There was a total release of this chemical.
6. June 19, 2012, approximately 50 to 60 gallons of diesel was spilled due to a semi-truck / train accident at 70th and Sodtown Road.
7. On July 19, 2012 the Kearney Fire Department responded to a natural gas leak in the area of 20th Avenue and 39th Street. A vendor installing underground fiber optics struck the natural gas line causing the leak. Natural gas leaked into the community for over two hours before the line was capped stopping the leak. This leak caused evacuation of the area and a shelter was opened.

Emergency Management Concept

This section describes the emergency management concept but it is not inclusive of the everyday meetings and activities of the Emergency Management Office for Buffalo County.

Comprehensive Emergency Management: The four phases of comprehensive emergency management are mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Each phase results from the previous one and establishes the requirements of the next. This past year the City of Kearney/ Buffalo County Emergency Management Office continued to focus on all four phases not only in training but real life emergency incidents; however, much of the year concentrated on the planning and preparedness phase.

The Four Phases of a comprehensive Emergency Management program is certainly simplified in the above paragraph. In addition, the Emergency Management department is responsible for:

- Reporting to a number of departments and agencies at the local, state and federal levels
- Meeting State and Federal mandates and requirements
- Maintaining outreach programs
- Grant management
- Maintaining emergency operations and equipment; for example, the Emergency Operation Center, Emergency Mobile Response unit, Recovery Unit, and Generators, etc.
- Volunteer management and coordination
- Attend continuing education, training, exercises and conferences
- Conduct training, drills, exercises and planning activities
- Maintain and operate a county wide ID credentialing system for County employees, Emergency Volunteers, EOC staff, county wide first responder agencies, appointed and elected officials, Jail service providers / volunteers and the Justice Center
- Manage and maintain the county wide notification systems
- Provide annual budget to the board; complete claims and payroll
- Work with Emergency Management partners and develop and negotiate agreements such as contracts, MOA's, MOU's, and LOA's for the emergency program.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): All EOC operations were handled at the lowest Emergency Management level and were never operational through one full operational period.

- The EOC was opened 31 times in 2012 due to weather related events during the winter, spring, and summer months. This is far less than the prior year when it seemed to be open almost daily due to the second phase Justice Center project, flood planning, and other weather related events.
- There were 17 tours and emergency management presentations conducted in the EOC in 2012.
- As well as several training activities, dispatchers worked out of the dispatch center in the EOC on a monthly basis.
- Weekly preventive maintenance and operation testing was conducted on all equipment and technologies within the EOC to ensure it is always ready.

Emergency Management Office: The Emergency Management Office continues to work with Emergency Management partners within community groups and agencies involved in the area of public safety. In the year 2012, it was involved with the Buffalo County Mutual Aid Association to work countywide with fire, EMS, and law enforcement as well as work with Volunteer organizations and private partners.

Hazmat Team: The Technician Level Hazmat Team continues to operate with the Emergency Manager serving as the administrator of this team. \$5,000.00 was added to the Emergency Management budget for support in the 2010/2011 fiscal year. This funding has proven to be very beneficial to sustain this vital response team for Buffalo County. In the year 2012, 6 new level "B" and 3 new Level "A" Hazmat suits were purchased. The Emergency Management department has also provided funds for training exercise, conferences, and membership dues for the Hazmat team.

Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD): COAD was developed in the Buffalo County/Kearney area in 2006 and continues to meet as an active group:

- The COAD group met quarterly over the last year. Membership involvement continues to be an issue for group meetings and planning groups.
- Table top exercises were implemented this year and has seemed to help somewhat; however, there are still a number of organizations we would like to see come to the COAD table.
- Active members of this group are the Red Cross, United Way, and Salvation Army, Department of HSS, University of Nebraska at Kearney, and the Two Rivers Public Health Department.
- Through an exercise, this group recognized that the following departments and/or organizations are needed as an active participant within the COAD group: Good Samaritan Hospital, Kearney Public Schools, Kearney Animal Shelter, Kearney Chamber of Commerce, Sale Barn, Fair Board member, Media, Public Works Departments, i.e. Water, Sewer, Street, Electrical, YMCA, Kearney Law Enforcement, Kearney Fire Department, Transportation agencies, TRIMRS organization, City and County Management / Offices.

Tri-City Rural Medical Response System (TRMRS): TRMRS was developed in 2004 and in 2008 developed a group called the MRC (Medical Response Corp) for Central Nebraska.

- Both groups continued to work on vital plans for emergency response and recovery in 2012.
- The TRMRS interoperable communications for the 18 hospitals was completed in 2012. Testing and exercising of this system continues monthly.
- Work continued on the development of the EOC Medical Table Plan. An information presentation and a table top exercise was conducted for the area clinics providing them the information that this plan only works with clinic involvement in the planning and preparedness process.
- The Family Assistance Center Plans were completed in 2012. This plan has been written as a generic plan so that other Emergency Managers within the state could adopt and implement this plan with little effort. This plan has been written to support Buffalo County and its communities.
- The TRIMRS program is now focusing on an Active Shooter plan for hospitals and clinics. Plans and training will start in 2013.
- In 2012, the Buffalo County Emergency Management office was involved in writing the new contract for the MRC coordinator position.
- MRC work and projects continued to move forward in 2012.
- MRC current Volunteers have been validated and the MRC trailer has gotten closer to being response ready. Additional supplies have been identified / purchased, and response plans were updated.
- The big news for the MRC this year is obtaining its non-transport BLS license. This now allows the EMS personnel to volunteer for and work under the MRC program.

Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT): The CERT program was started in a regional area to include Buffalo County in 2006.

- The CERT program continues to assist with public education within Buffalo County through promotional items and advertisement spots.
- CERT training continues throughout the South Central Planning Exercise Training Region; anyone interested in the CERT program in Buffalo County can take the training within the region.
- The Buffalo County Emergency Management office could and should be more involved in this program at the local level. This is a program that would be much more active within Buffalo County if the office had a full time deputy to manage the program.

Two Rivers Public Health: Buffalo County Emergency Management continues to work with Two Rivers Public Health.

- Buffalo County Emergency Manager has also been appointed to the executive board of the Healthy Actions Council.
- Attended a continuing education table top exercise for the Chem-Pack program.

- Attended four phase MAPP meetings of the Two Rivers Public Health Department.
- This office received the Two River Public Health Response plan and the plan has been reviewed and maintained in the Emergency Management office.
- Two River Public Health is a great partner to local emergency management and we work together on many projects and with many groups such as:
 - COAD
 - TRIMRS
 - Emergency Response ID system
 - Functional needs populations projects as well as many other preparedness and response projects

Kearney and Buffalo County Weather: Kearney and Buffalo County were placed under

- Severe Thunderstorm, Tornado watches or warnings 44 times
- Four winter weather advisories
- Buffalo County was below average rain fall for the year by -11.41 inches. NOTE: there could be up to 2 inches of precipitation unrecorded as this precipitation came in the form of snowfall. Snowfall is not recorded by the recordings devices as precipitation at the Kearney Airport recording point.
- Buffalo County and the Kearney area had received normal to above normal rain fall for several years removing the county from the drought status that it had been in prior to 2007.
- With the lack of precipitation and the extreme heat through the summer and fall months, Buffalo County and much of the State have gone into a Drought emergency.
- An Emergency Federal Declaration was declared for Buffalo County in 2012. The average rain fall for the Kearney/Buffalo County area is approximately 25.23 inches. As stated above 2012 year data could be off by up to 2 inches due to unrecorded precipitation of snowfall during the year. Precipitation recorded from 2007 to present date is as follows:
 - 30.37" of precipitation in 2007
 - 36.13 inches for the 2008 year
 - Between 19 and 22 inches of precipitation in 2009
 - 21.80 inches recorded in 2010
 - 31.45 inches recorded in 2011
 - Recorded precipitation for the 2012 year was 11.41 inches.

MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENT

Mission Statement

To provide Buffalo County residents, businesses and industries, non-profit organizations, emergency responders, volunteers, and local governments the education and support necessary to reduce the loss of life and human suffering; to minimize property damage; and to protect the community from all types of disasters through a comprehensive, risk-based, all-hazard emergency management program.

Values Statement

Emergency Management is by function and by law a cooperative effort on the part of all levels of government and the private sector. At the local level, Emergency Management is concerned with the protection and education of the public from the hazards and risks that affect them. The credibility of the program resides in the credibility of the program advocate. The Emergency Manager should exemplify the utility of the emergency management program.

The job of the Emergency Manager is defined by law. It does, however, have a moral basis. The emergency manager must balance the duties authorized and required by law with the moral obligation of the public employee to do everything possible to protect and preserve the safety of citizens in the city and county.

Emergency Management expresses a strong commitment to provide interagency cooperation and coordination of activities relating to mitigation of, prevention of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters and emergencies.

Vision Statement

The goal of the Buffalo County Emergency Management Department is to educate the Citizens of Buffalo County about their ongoing role in preparing for emergencies through education, community outreach, and training. By creating an increased emphasis on disaster preparedness, the Buffalo County Emergency Management Department looks forward to reinforcing interdepartmental communications and cooperation throughout our county. By means of creating a community culture of preparedness and fostering partnerships with local public and private groups and businesses, it is our goal that Buffalo County will work as a community, with neighbor helping neighbor, when a disaster strikes.

ORGANIZATION

The Buffalo County Emergency Manager is an appointed position and is subject to the direction and control of the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors but is managed (day-to-day supervision) by the Buffalo County Sheriff and Kearney Chief of Police.

The position of the Buffalo County Emergency Manager is defined by law but nevertheless encompasses a moral obligation to balance his/her duties authorized and required by law with the moral obligation of the public employee to do everything possible to protect and preserve the safety of citizens within his/her community.

The incumbent is granted broad and extensive authority in determining program priorities and is responsible in determining the best way to support all local, state and national programs and objectives. The broad duties of this position include but not limited to the following:

- Articulate a strong commitment of interagency cooperation and work with all elected and appointed officials of all local, State and Federal governments.
- Maintain and manage the Emergency Operation Center and/or the mobile response unit.
- Provide coordination of all activities relating to the mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery from disasters and/or emergencies.
- Serve as the principal advisor to the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors in emergency incidents.
- Manage, maintain, document, and appropriately utilize public and private resources.



TRAINING

As required by the Nebraska Emergency Management Act, Section 81-829.46 (6), which requires the “*Director to devote full time to the duties of emergency management, and that he/she shall be qualified and certified in accord with criteria established for the state by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.*” The Director has completed the following:

- NEMA Basic Certification before being hired and again in 2012
- NEMA’s Advanced Certification for Emergency Management (2005)
- NIMS compliances I.S. 100, 200, 700, and 800 (2005)
- FEMA Professional Certification was obtained (2006)
- The NIMS 300 and 400 certification was accomplished (2007)
- NIMS 701, 702, 703 and 704 certification was completed (2010)

On a continual basis the Director discovers training opportunities such as continuing education, new technologies, online classes, regional training and conferences, etc. In 2012, the Director sent 35 assorted local or regional training opportunities to First Responder agencies.

The Director attended or conducted the following courses / conferences:

- ❖ Severe Weather Spotter Training
- ❖ School Emergency Plans / Checklists Training
- ❖ NACO Annual and Quarterly Conferences
- ❖ NAEM Conference
- ❖ Decision Support Conference (NWS)
- ❖ ICS training
- ❖ Central District Meeting
- ❖ Nebraska Hazardous Materials Association Conference
- ❖ Risk Communications during disasters
- ❖ Dispatcher Buffalowatch.net notification usage training
- ❖ CBRN escape mask training for Sheriff’s office
- ❖ NIMS 300/400 training in Kearney
- ❖ Advanced Planning concepts for the Incident Command system
- ❖ IS-271 Anticipating Hazardous Weather and Community Risk
- ❖ IS-247 Integrated Public Alerting and Warning System
- ❖ EOC Management Training
- ❖ Nebraska Emergency Management Basic Academy
- ❖ PIO JIC/JIS training
- ❖ Winter Weather Watches, Warnings and Advisories: Why should it matter to me? Webinar Training
- ❖ Statewide ID system training
- ❖ Mitigation after a Disaster
- ❖ Pipeline Education

STATE / FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Conduct or participate in a minimum of three exercises annually (per Emergency Management Performance Grant requirements)
2. Meet, track, and maintain a database of all State and Federal NIMS requirements for emergency management, first responder agencies, and chief appointed and elected officials of IS courses 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, and 800.
3. Review and update 3 year exercise calendar annually
4. Update Local Emergency Operations Plan annually
5. Complete online grant documents (BISR, and GMS)
6. Complete performance quarterly reports
7. Update online NIMS-Cast documents annually

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

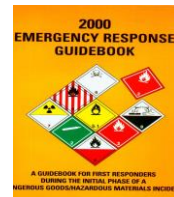
1. 17 Presentations/Tours on the EOC to city/county officials and public
2. Five Emergency Management presentations for UNK students for Emergency preparedness / Safety and Science and Technology classes
3. Two Emergency Management/Preparedness Tours and presentations to Leadership Kearney
4. A tour and presentation to the Citizens Academy
5. Three tours and presentations to school groups for County Government day
6. A tour and presentation for the University of Nebraska Kearney Emergency Operation Team
7. A tour & presentation for the Good Samaritan Hospital Incident Command Team
8. A tour and presentation to Platte County appointed and elected officials
9. A tour and presentation to the Region 26 elected officials members
10. 11 tours and presentation to Dr. Boyd, the Homeland Security Director of Science and Technology, and his team
11. A tour for the local Housing Authority and plan review.
12. Four Weather related presentations to local TV and/or radio (Talk of the Town)
13. A presentation to the Kearney area CCC on weather and preparedness.
14. An EOC and Incident management presentation was conducted for Local Clinics for the EOC Medical Table and tour of the EOC

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

The Buffalo County LEPC has been a beneficial component of the emergency management program and it operated as a valuable program for all Emergency Management departments within the region. However, four years ago the LEPC committee became less and less active in Buffalo County due to a general lack of interest, low participation levels of key stakeholders and ultimately the necessary prioritization by the director. The Emergency Management Director, being an office of one, has continually faced increased time demands since the 9/11 evolution of Emergency Management. At this time, the Emergency Management Office faced a time management tipping point that demanded tough decisions of how one person can achieve the duties of this office and the decision to place the LEPC (committee) in an inactive status was reluctantly made.

It should be noted the Director still fulfills all LEPC requirements such as required reviews; maintaining Tier II reports; creating a compilation report of all Tier II's; filing reports with the SERC (State Emergency Response Commission) and the Buffalo County Board; updates the LEOP with the report; and maintains spill reports throughout the year.

The Director believes the Buffalo County LEPC should be revitalized when it becomes possible to increase the office staff with the addition of an Emergency Management Deputy in the Emergency Management Office.

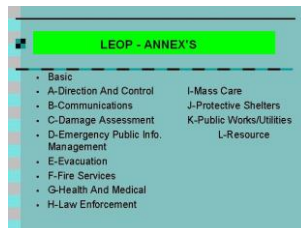


TIER II REPORTS

All copies of Tier II reports filed by facilities in Buffalo County, that are required by the Community Right-To-Know Act to report hazardous substances, are placed on file in the Emergency Management Director's office. The facilities are required to update the reports on an annual basis and are reviewed by the Director for the HAZMAT Annex of the LEOP. A compiled TIER II report by the Buffalo County Emergency Manager is sent to the SERC and the Buffalo County Board Members for their review. This report is also sent to the City of Kearney point of contact, Police Chief Dan Lynch.

CONTINGENCY PLANS

The Director maintains all contingency plans filed by facilities in Buffalo County that are required to file the plans, or do so because they understand the importance of providing the information for emergency planning and response.



RMP (RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS)

Thirteen facilities in Buffalo County were required by law to file Risk Management Plans. This is a requirement by the EPA. The Risk Management Plans are on file in the Director's office and are also available on the secure portion of the EPA website. The following is a list of the RMP facilities:

- Abengoa Bioenergy (Ravenna)
- Agricultural Services Inc. (Shelton)
- Aurora Coop (Buda)
- Aurora Coop (Gibbon)
- Aurora Coop (Sodtown)
- Bowie Fertilizer, Inc. (Miller)
- Bowie Fertilizer, Inc. (Riverdale)
- Farmer's Cooperative Association (Ravenna)
- Gibbon Packing (Gibbon)
- Leprino Foods Company (Ravenna)
- Nebraska Turkey Growers Cooperative (Gibbon)
- Optic Fertilizer, Incorporated (Gibbon)
- Trotter Fertilizer (Pleasanton)



The Director receives notification involving radioactive transports of spent fuel and low specific activity materials prior to the shipments entering Buffalo County. Notices are made to the appropriate agencies that would respond in a radiological incident. There were no reports of radioactive transport reports to this

office this last year. This does not mean that there were no transports through Buffalo County but due to transportation regulation changes on reporting requirements as well as less radioactive transports through the primary routes through Nebraska and Buffalo County, the reports have been reduced to almost none.



EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM

The Emergency Operation Center and the Backup Dispatch Center are primary locations for weather operations supporting all of Buffalo County. Any time Buffalo County is put in a Thunderstorm Warning, Tornado Watch or Warning, the EOC and backup Dispatch Center are opened and operational.

Monthly tests of the alarm radios, pagers and outdoor warning systems were conducted throughout the year. Pre-maintenance services on the sirens continued during the month of March within the Kearney area. Testing and the monthly test of the outdoor warning sirens were conducted out of the EOC several times throughout the year.

In 2010 and 2011 all-weather operations were conducted from the new EOC. In 2012 it was felt that the Dispatch Center in the EOC was not a reliable center to set off the outdoor warning sirens in the communities, although in the prior two years the system worked without an issue. The new direction was that if sirens needed to be set off in the communities, the EOC would need to call the Primary dispatch center and request that the sirens be set off for that particular community. This process is cumbersome at best and it has slowed the emergency notification process down. It was felt that after the Narrowbanding project was complete at the end of this year, and some frequencies were changed for the sirens, the EOC Dispatch Center would be as reliable as the primary center, and we could go back to setting off the outdoor warning sirens from the EOC.

Narrowbanding for public safety frequencies had to be completed by January 2013. This affects the remote signal controllers for all the sirens in Buffalo County. The narrowbanding project for the siren controllers was scheduled to be completed in March before the severe weather season. This project was delayed as the Sheriff and Kearney Police Chief wanted to change controller frequencies for the Kearney and other community sirens.

Buffalo County waited 6 plus months before the new frequencies were approved from the FCC and the State Office of Communications. In addition, the siren narrowbanding needed to be completed at the same time as the Buffalo County Highway department and the CC paging frequencies changes. These frequencies were not ready to be completed until November. The Narrowbanding project for the siren controllers was paid for with Homeland Security grant funds that this office was able to secure. Although the new frequency for the sirens has not been completed, the narrowbanding project was completed in November.

In February of 2012 the UNK siren failed. This siren was the old Thunderbolt model that we can no longer purchase parts for. I worked with UNK, Federal Signal/Danco representatives to determine the siren issues and if we could fix it. After about 6 months of working on this siren, it was felt that we may have to purchase a new siren for this location. This siren still seemed to work, however was muffled. With a last chance effort, I contacted a local electrician to take a look at the siren. It was determined that the siren horn was clear full of bird nests, and dead birds. The horn was cleaned out, and a new screen put on the horn to keep the birds out and the siren is back in operation in November, 2012. In addition, three other sirens in Kearney throughout the year were reported as not working; all three sirens were fixed. All three had issues with blown fuses.

A new Lightning Strike notification siren at Meadowlark Golf Course was installed. The City of Kearney and the Meadowlark Golf Board wanted to have a better way of notifying golfers on the course of lightning dangers. The investigation, mitigation, purchase and project management of this siren was coordinated by the emergency management office.

A siren audit was conducted in March of this year in every community in Buffalo County. This audit recorded siren location by address, type of siren remote radio controllers, and coverage areas for each of the communities. During this audit one siren in Gibbon was found not to be in working order and two sirens in Ravenna were found not to be working. Community leaders were informed of the finding. The Ravenna sirens were found to have been tampered with; the wires had been pulled loose by someone to prevent the sirens from sounding. This audit took about two weeks to complete.

The sirens were sounded only once in Buffalo County in 2012. A tornado warning was issued on May 4th for the Northwest portions of Buffalo County which included Miller, Pleasanton and Ravenna. Sirens were sounded in these communities.



In 2011 Buffalo County Emergency Management was informed by the company responsible for the DCC notification system it would no longer support the system. This was due to the operating system and its inability for continued updates. The decision at the time was that we would continue to use the system for as long as we could for the group notifications and start the migration to the Cooper Notification for Geo notification. Seven additional groups were added to the DCC notification system throughout the year. Training was conducted with the Buffalo County Dispatch Supervisor and four dispatchers for the GEO notification using the Cooper (BuffaloWatch.net) system in January. The BuffaloWatch.net system was used for Public GEO notifications after this training was completed. The Dialogic High Speed Notification System worked well for notification to the special groups, such as Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Hazmat Teams, Volunteer groups etc. until the end of October.

At the end of October the DCC notification system quit working. The emergency management office worked with the City of Kearney IT department, and the DCC tech support personnel to determine why the system was not working and how to fix it. It was determined that the system had a bad phone card that needed to be replaced. With the assistance of the Kearney IT Department, the Emergency management office ordered a new phone card for the system. The Kearney IT Department replaced the card and worked with DCC tech support to configure the new card. After about a month of finding a new card, ordering, installing and configuring the new card, it was determined that card was not the issue and the system could not be fixed. When the system went down in October, the major users of the system were notified that the system was not working properly and again when it was found out when the system could not be fixed.

During the time frame of trying to fix the DCC system, Emergency Management built and duplicated the groups into the BuffaloWatch.net system. In addition Emergency Management worked with Kearney IT to extract the member information out of the DCC system as well as worked with the Cooper tech support to import the member information into the BuffaloWatch.net system. This took longer than expected; however there were over 1200 members that needed to be put into the new system. Much of this work had to be conducted by hand to make the import compatible into the BuffaloWatch system.

The Cooper Notification System called BuffaloWatch.net has been in place for 2 plus years now and is a web based hosted system. This system will now be used as the primary and exclusive system for cell phone, text, e-mail, and SMS messages for weather notifications as well as voice and landline phones for GEO notifications and pre-developed group notifications. There are 2,280 cell phones signed up for the weather notification at this time with a total of 27,437 landline and cell phones in the system.

The Buffalo Alert Computer Desk top alert was upgraded with a new radar map over the last year; although the map seems to be very functional and has a lot more features over the previous radar map, it has had some issues. This new radar map seems to be a bit bandwidth intensive so if you do not have high speed internet it does not load properly, the map will allow a person to zoom in to a desired level; however when it updates, it goes back to the default setting. In addition this radar map is pulling its information from several sources; this is causing some anti-virus software systems to see the Buffalo Alert as a virus.

I-PAWS and CMAS is a new federal emergency alerting system that has come on line this year across the United States. Buffalo County Emergency Management has been part of the development of the CAP codes (emergency messages) with FEMA over the last couple of years. In the last year Buffalo County Emergency Management has completed all the documents, I-PAWS application, I-PAWS MOU and MOA, and the Collaborative Operation Group (COG) document, Rules of Behavior contract, the Digital certificate request, and the mandatory FEMA I-PAWS Independent Study course. Buffalo County is the only county in the state of Nebraska ready and approved by FEMA to use the I-PAWS and CMAS systems.



RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES

The response unit was used for the fifth straight time during the annual Nebraska Game and Parks Outdoor Expo in May. This was the fourth year it was held at the Fort Kearney recreation area. This unit provided communications to several agencies that were participating in the management of the event from Buffalo County Communications Center, Game and Parks, State Patrol, Good Samaritan Hospital EMS.

In addition to providing interoperable communications to these agencies, it continues to provide a good opportunity for training for the Incident Dispatch Team in a low stress environment. In addition, the response unit was used at the following events:

- The unit was used at the Junior Fire Fighters Class at the request of the Kearney Fire Department. It was set up at the Kearney Fire Training Grounds in support of teaching Junior Fire Fighter classes.
- The Response Unit was used again for Kearney Cruise night. The Unit was used by the Mutual Aid Law Enforcement agencies and operated by the Buffalo County Dispatch and Emergency Management.
- The next time the Response Unit was used was at the Archway Native American Powwow Dance days. The response unit was used for 3 days as an Incident Command Post and interoperable communications for the responders and volunteer organizations. Emergency Management from Buffalo County, Clay County, and Phelps County managed the CERT and the MRC Volunteers for Incident Medical response.

NOTE: The Response Unit was not used for emergency response for any activities in 2012. Testing and updates were conducted on this unit by the Emergency Management office on almost a weekly basis.

There were several issues with the internet in the response unit over the last year. The Cradle point device that switches from the Air-Card to the Satellite stopped switching between the two internets automatically. It was determined that switching out the 3-G Air-Card to the 4-G card was the issue. When switching from the Air-Card to the Satellite, the Cradle point device now has to be cycled off and cycled back on. The Satellite internet modem developed an issue and would not find the Satellite and was losing the auto GPS tracking. After weeks of working on this issue, the modem was sent to the technicians at Ground Control. The modem was fixed and sent back within about two weeks.

Training with the Response Unit

Three Dispatchers had the opportunity to work and train in the Response Unit in 2012. The dispatchers worked in the unit during the Game and Parks Outdoor Expo and the Kearney Cruise night events. No other training was conducted in the response unit in 2012.

WEATHER



Mammatus Clouds over Kearney



Holy Hail Stones Batman



Now where did I put my Truck

The following list indicates the number of watches, warnings and winter weather advisories by the months they occurred in.

Month	Watch	Warning	Winter Weather Advisories
January	0	0	0
February	1	1	2
March	0	0	0
April	3	4	0
May	7	20	0
June	1	3	0
July	1	0	0
August	0	1	0
Sept.	1	0	0
October	0	2	0
November	0	0	0
December	0	0	2

WEATHER



Stripped Corn



Winter Weather on the Bricks



Now that's a new look for a Vet

BUDGET

The Emergency Management budget for the fiscal 2011-12 year stayed under budget and was closed out at 5% under budget. The budget closed out under budget in part due to much of the conferences, meetings and trainings have been in the local area, cutting down on travel, fuel, hotel, conference and training expenses. The new fiscal 2012-13 Budget was approved by the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. The Buffalo County Emergency Management Department budget for 2012-13 is \$120,263.00. This is an increase of 1.12% from the previous year's budget.

The EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) for the fiscal year 2011 closed out and the 2012 grant started in June of 2012. This program is designed to reimburse the Emergency Management budget up to 50%. The program is administered through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency which will assist the Buffalo County Emergency Management budget at up to 50% for the 2012/2013 fiscal budget year for salary, office/EOC equipment, support and supplies. The prior 2011/2012 year was initially funded at 42%. This grant percentage support is based off of the total budget expenses at the end of the budget not the total allowable budget.

The total amount funded for the 2012 budget year is \$46,564.00. This is only about 39% of the budget this year. Although more EMPG grant funds have been funneled into the State of Nebraska this year over past years from the Federal Government, the funding is lower at the local level. This office underwent one State Audit in 2012 on Homeland Security Grants, NIMS compliance, and the EM budget for the years of 2009, 2010 and 2011. The audit found that all of the paperwork, documentation, and equipment were in order.



POSSIBLE AND POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES 2012

January

There was no weather activity to report for the month of January other than one day of high wind in the Kearney, Buffalo County area. The high wind was on January 11th with 38 mph winds and 52 mph gusts.

There was a Diesel spill on the Interstate at mile marker 272 west bound lanes. The spill came from a semi fuel tank and the incident was handled by the State Patrol with requests for the Kearney Fire Department and City Sand truck for assistance. All notifications and paperwork filing was conducted through this office to the Nebraska Emergency Management Office, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency.

February

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Winter Weather warning on February 2nd at 14:39
- Winter Weather warning February 3rd at 07:04
- Tornado watch was issued on the 28th at 15:50 to 21:00
- Thunderstorm warning was issued on the 28th at 18:13. High wind and heavy rain was associated with this storm. A tornado was spotted southwest of Holdrege NE. This is the earliest recording of a tornado in Nebraska.

April

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Thunderstorm watch issued on April 12th at 18:52
- On the 14th a Tornado Watch issued at 11:57 and 18:24
- Also, on the 14th Thunderstorm warnings were issued at 18:01, 18:59, 19:30 and 20:53. No significant damage was reported to this office due to weather activities.

May

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Thunderstorm watch was issued on May 2nd at 19:29
- Thunderstorm warnings were issued on May 2nd at 20:05 and 20:45
- Thunderstorm watch was issued on May 4th at 17:44 and 22:58

- There was one Tornado Warning issued for Buffalo County on May 4th at 22:00. No significant damage was reported to this office due to weather activities.
- Thunderstorm warnings were issued on May 4th at 22:28
- Thunderstorm watch was issued on May 5th at 22:01
- Thunderstorm watch was issued on May 23rd at 22:45
- Thunderstorm warnings were issued on May 23rd at 22:51, 23:16, 23:24, 23:29 and 23:53
- Thunderstorm warnings were issued on May 24th at 00:06 and 00:27
- Thunderstorm watch was issued on May 27th at 15:39
- Thunderstorm warnings were issued on May 27th at 16:59, 18:10, 18:59, and 19:35
- Thunderstorm watch was issued on May 30th at 16:54
- Thunderstorm warnings were issued on May 30th at 11:18, 12:49, 13:28, 13:34 and 13:36

May seemed to be a pretty busy month for Hazardous Material spills/incidents within the county.

- May 2nd there was an Anhydrous Ammonia release at the Leprino Foods Company in Ravenna. Approximately 252 pounds of Anhydrous Ammonia was released in a time span of about 5 minutes at 17:00 hours. Two contract staff that was working in the area was taken by ambulance to Good Samaritan Hospital for observation for breathing difficulties.
- May 9th approximately 4000 gallon of Liquid 32% Nitrogen Fertilizer was spilled into a ditch along 235th road and Cherry Ave. A truck driver dropped the truck trailer tires off the side of the road and flipped the entire semi. A 911 call was not generated for this call as the spiller did not make the immediate report to responders. The release was immediate. The spiller reported to a deputy at the Law Enforcement Center later in the day after the incident.
- May 11th a pickup carrying 4 mixed chemicals specifically designed to kill vegetation flipped over at 160th and Hawk Road. Approximately 60 gallon of chemical spilled from that tank before the pickup was set upright.
- May 27th Kearney Fire reported to a fire at Brown Transfer in Kearney at 911 East 11th street. A tractor trailer that was backed up to the building had caught on fire. Among other things in this trailer were two totes that contained cleaning solution (Sodium Hydroxide/Potassium Hydroxide) weighing 6820 pounds. There was a total release of this product due to the fire. The Emergency Management office conducted information gathering, completed reports, and made the appropriate contact for all of these incidents.

June

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Thunderstorm watch issued on June 14th at 15:09
- Thunderstorm warnings were issued on June 23rd at 00:52 and 01:06
- There was a High Wind warning on June 23rd at 01:33. The average wind speed was 31 mph while gusts were recorded at 42 mph. No significant damage was reported to this office due to weather activities.

June 19th there was a Semi / Train accident that resulted in a hazmat diesel spill. The Buffalo County Hazmat team was called out to assist in mitigating the spill. This office contacted the appropriate local and state agencies and completed the appropriate paperwork and submitted it to the appropriate agencies.

July

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Thunderstorm watch issued on July 28th at 17:59

There was 12 days of 99 plus degrees with six days recording 100 degrees or higher. Due to the heat and lack of precipitation, July is the month that put much of the state, to include all of Buffalo County, in a Drought Emergency.

On July 19th there was a natural gas leak reported on 20th and 39th street in Kearney. "TH" Construction Company was putting in some fiber optic lines in the Kearney area when it struck a large natural gas line and broke the line open. Seven different agencies responded to this incident from Law enforcement, Fire, Utilities, and Volunteer organizations. Several areas and apartment buildings were evacuated out of the area. The time of the incident was 10:56. The leak was stopped approximately two hours after the incident. One Shelter was opened and one person was transported to the hospital.

August

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Thunderstorm Warning issued on August 1st at 22:40

The heat and lack of precipitation continued to be an issue in Buffalo County and the State of Nebraska keeping Buffalo County in a Drought Emergency.

September

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Thunderstorm Watch issued on September 6th at 15:54

Buffalo County and the State of Nebraska continued to be in a Drought Emergency. Grassland fires became a growing concern in the Buffalo County area.

Buffalo County Emergency Management coordinated efforts for five Buffalo County Fire Departments to the Rushville and Region 24 complex wild land fires. Shelton, Gibbon, Kearney, Amherst and Elm Creek all responded with personnel and grass rigs to assist in fighting these fires.

October

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- A High Wind warning issued on October 17th at 14:50 for the 17th and 18th of October. The average sustained wind speed on the 18th was 38 mph while gusts reached 51 mph.

November

There was a Semi fire near Elm Creek on the 7th of November. The Semi was hauling big round hay bales. The semi and the hay bales were fully engulfed as was the road ditch. There was a Mutual Aid call with Kearney Fire to assist with extinguishing the fire.

December

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- A blizzard warning was issued on 12-19-2012 at 11:10 and 15:00 hours. This winter storm produced 50 mile per hour gusts and 25 to 30 mile per hour sustained winds with approximately seven inches of snow which caused drifting and whiteout conditions within Buffalo County.

There was a Semi car accident on north Highway 10; the semi developed a fuel leak due to the accident. There was less than 20 gallons released from the semi, which was a non-reportable quantity; the Highway Department was sent out to clean the spill and replaced the gravel on the road. There was a report of ice jamming on the Platte River a quarter mile west of the Kearney Bridge over Christmas and New Year's. Notification calls were made to the USGS office, NEMA, and the National Weather Service. Emergency Management and the Sheriff's office deputies kept an eye on the river during this time.

PROJECTS 2012

The Digital Emergency Operations Clocks were installed in the EOC. This project took a couple of months to get completed due to scheduling conflicts with the installer and the electrical contractor. Two clocks were installed in the front of the room on the video wall; one was placed on the back wall behind the head command table. The two clocks on the front are on military time while the clock on the back wall was left on civilian time. The clock on the back wall can be set to count up or down based on the on the type of event.

Emergency Management has been working with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to get the D-Star Amateur radio project competed, for one reason or another, this project has been stalled. It is hoped that this project will get completed by the summer of 2013. An additional HF radio has been added to the Amateur Radio room.

Two NOAA radio projects were completed in the EOC in 2012. A ceiling speaker has been added to the front room above the Command table; this speaker has been hooked into the NOAA radio system; this allows the NOAA radio broadcast to be heard out on the EOC floor. This has proven to be a valuable tool for Severe Weather operation. In addition the Buffalo County EOC is now rebroadcasting the NOAA weather radio from the Atlanta tower to the internet. Emergency Management has interfaced the weather radio to the weather underground webpage. Now the general public can get weather information for Buffalo County and surrounding even if they do not have an indoor warning device.

All equipment and technologies have been tested and kept up to date. Preventive maintenance testing and updates are conducted once a week. This is done on Fridays, schedule permitting.

Emergency Public Notification continues to be a high priority in Buffalo County in 2012. Buffalo County provided emergency notifications to the general public and first responder / volunteer organizations through the DCC (Dialogic Communications Corporation) System the BuffaloWatch.net system, NOAA weather radios, interfacing NOAA radio and the internet, outdoor warning sirens, I-PAWS/CMAS and using the general media outlets.

Thirteen new groups and 150 people were added to the DCC notification system. Additional training had been provided to those that use the system as well as drills conducted over the last year to improve the proficiency of the user. With the information sent to this office from the DCC Company in 2011 that the company would no longer provide support to the system, we knew it was only a matter of time that this system would fail. We had no idea it would be less than a year later.

And, the DCC system failed at the end of October, and the City IT and the Emergency Management department tried to fix this system through early December when it was determined it could not be fixed. This system was being used to notify the responder groups. With the system going down the Emergency Management office started the migration to the BuffaloWatch.net system in November. There were 85 groups and over 1200 individuals that needed to be built and transferred to the BuffaloWatch.net system when the DCC system failed. As of December 31st the Emergency Management office had built all 85 groups and was still waiting for the vendor to import the 1200 members. The BuffaloWatch.net system will now be used for Emergency Weather notifications, Public GEO-notifications, and group notifications.

The BuffaloWatch.net Notification system has been in place now for about 2.5 years. The internet software based system is powered by Cooper Notifications. 911 phone data has been added to the system in 2011 and updated in 2012. This allows Buffalo County to notify the public by landline and cell phones. Dispatchers were trained in January 2012 on the operation of Geo notification and the group notification systems.

There is one downfall for using this system for Geo notifications due to the amount of voice minutes used. Buffalo County Emergency Management currently has budgeted to purchase 10,000 minutes a year at the cost of \$1,500.00. At this time Emergency Management has built up 20,000 voice minutes. If these minutes are used up before year end, additional minutes would have to be purchased to keep using this system for voice notifications. This office checked into the cost of unlimited voice minutes, this would be an additional \$18,000.00 annually. It was determined that for the amount of use of the system purchasing unlimited minutes was not cost effective at this time. Texting, SMS and E-mail messages are free. There are just over 2000 cell phones signed up at this time and over 27,000 landline phones in the system.

I-PAWS and CMAS is a new Federal notification system to alert US citizens that can be used at the Federal (Presidential) Nationwide emergency, State and local. The National Weather Service has also started using this system. This can only be used for Life threatening events. It will alert through all the major Emergency Alerting System already in place, such as TV and Radio, but will also alert Cell Phones that fall within the alerting area. Buffalo County has been working on this system with FEMA for the last two plus years in the development of "CAP" code messages. Buffalo County Emergency Management has also been the only county in Nebraska to date approved and authorized to use the I-PAWS / CMAS system by FEMA.

Several Emergency Plans have been started, completed or and reviewed in 2012. The Buffalo County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) under went a complete review in 2012 with the Direction and Control section being updated four separate times throughout the year. The Central Platte NRD and the Lower Loup NRD Hazard mitigation Plans were completed and reviewed by this office in 2012. Both plans had been in the planning and information gathering state for about five years before they were approved by the State of Nebraska and FEMA.

Buffalo County and the TRMRS organization have been working on Mass Fatality planning for about three years now. The Family Assistance Center Plan has been written and completed for the region and Buffalo County. We are still in the planning stages for the EOC Medical Table and the Morgue Operation Plan. These two plans are expected to be completed in 2013.

The Emergency Government Continuity of Operation Plans for Buffalo County and the City of Kearney has been written. These plans are not as complete as it could or should be as some departments within County and City government have opted not to participate in the planning process.

A Debris Management plan for Buffalo County and the City of Kearney is being written at this time; this plan is expected to be completed in 2013. In addition, the Buffalo County Board Personnel Committee asked all Departments to create a specific job description and job duties document by the end of the calendar year. This document for the Buffalo County Emergency Management department was completed and turned in to the County Board as requested before deadline.

There have been a number of other plans reviewed and updated through the year. These plans have been identified within this report.

All of the 2011 Tier II reports were sent to this office; all reports were logged and submitted to the SEPC.

Creating, developing and producing ID cards through the Buffalo County Emergency Management office for Jail volunteers and service providers, the Justice Center, Buffalo County Employee's, First Responder agencies, Law Enforcement, Volunteer Fire departments, Volunteer organizations that support Emergency Management the Emergency Operation Centers as well as other Elected and Appointed officials within Buffalo County continues to be a very time consuming for the Emergency Management office.

Buffalo County and the Two Rivers Public Health Department seven years ago pushed for and tried to develop a statewide standard ID card for Government, Government related services, and first responders. We were not successful in getting this done across the state; however, we did get this accomplished within the Two Rivers Region (Seven Counties). As of 2012, the State of NE has adopted a Federal Standard ID card for government, government related, and first responder entities. Buffalo County has started using and producing these cards in 2012. All of the Amateur Radio Volunteers in Buffalo County have been credentialed in 2012. Several other Fire Departments are expected to be completed in 2013 and Buffalo County employees done in 2014.

Several projects have continued for the South Central Planning Training and Exercise Region (SCPETR). The public education campaign has been a large project that Buffalo County Emergency Management worked very hard to get going.

In 2012 the webpage (www.BeReadyNebraska.com) was completed. This website provided public preparedness and planning information as well as other Emergency Management services and events within Nebraska.

In addition there have been several paid Public Service Announcements ran on local TV and radio channels. Additional public preparedness commercials are planned for 2013 such as weather related preparedness, shelter in place information, making an emergency kit for home and car and so on.

The Regional Statewide Wireless backbone project (NWIN) has fallen into the lap of the PET regions. Most all other Regional Homeland Security grant funds not ear tagged for Law Enforcement and Fire Hazmat MOU cities has gone to this communications project.

Funding Training and Exercises continues to be a priority for the SCPET Region when funding is available and the training and exercise meet the allowable funding criteria.

Law Enforcement started an I-PAD and MDT project in 2012. Many of the law enforcement agencies within the SCPET region have taken advantage of this project. The I-PAD project has many applications at the local level for Law Enforcement agencies from live camera viewing, floor plans of school as well as E-citations. Law Enforcement agencies are finding using the I-PAD possibilities endless when improving Law Enforcement duties and safety and response capabilities. The I-PAD project is also set up to log into the Fusion Center when needed. Buffalo County Law Enforcement agencies have signed up for the Fusion Center and can log into the Center when needed.

Mobile Response / Communications vehicle was used for four planned events over the last year. The unit was used for the Annual Game and Parks Expo, the Junior Fire Fighters training, Kearney Cruise night and the Arch Way Native American Pow Wow. Two of these events provided training for dispatchers and incident command over the last year. This unit did not respond to any emergency incidents in 2012.

National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) compliance continues to be a full time project for the Buffalo County Emergency Management office. This office continues to work with all first responders as well as appointed and elected officials to maintain NIMS compliance. The Emergency Management offices in the state have been identified as the tracking agent for all first responder agencies and volunteer organizations within their jurisdiction. This directive was implemented to track training in the IC 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 800, and all required IS courses for first responder and volunteer agencies at the local level. We also track new members and members that have left the departments as well as keep an accurate account of who has and has not yet completed training. The NIMS reminder post cards continue to be sent out to each of the agencies to make sure that this information is being delivered to this office.

Responder agencies in Buffalo County vary in levels that are trained in the Federal required NIMS courses. Through the implementation of these two documents, it is felt that we continue to meet the NIMS standard and compliance in Buffalo County. Three 300 and 400 NIMS courses been held in the region in the last year. Buffalo County Emergency Management hosted one of these training at the Kearney Fire Trainings grounds. The NIMS 300 and 400 training have been mandated as a required course for any individual that could be put in the position to be in command or be the Incident Commander of a type III or higher event. At the end of 2012, six more responders had been trained in Buffalo County.

Volunteer organizations, large businesses, and schools continue to be targeted by Homeland Security to become NIMS compliant. This continues to be a huge undertaking by this office and could be a full time position just making sure all agencies are and stay compliant. It is still up to each agency to decide if they wish to continue to stay compliant within the NIMS standards.

The Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) is now in its 7th year. For the first time in five years the Safety Fair was not held. The COAD group felt that there was not enough time to put the fair on in 2012. Many of the organizations had other things going, the group also found it difficult to get member organizations involved. It was voted to forego the Safety Fair and look for a better venue to get out the public preparedness message.

It was thought that the COAD should look for other venues that already bring in large crowds and piggy back with these event the get the public safety information out. This is something the COAD group will be looking into in 2013.

One additional goal set by the COAD group at the end of 2013 was to increase our membership with new members as well as reach out to some of the past members we have not seen at the meetings in a while. The COAD continues to be great asset to the Emergency Management Agency. Emergency Management continues to rely heavily on the volunteers and community organizations of this group during large scale events within Buffalo County.

The Siren Usage Guideline / Policy for Buffalo County and the SCPET Region has been in place for a full year. There has been very little issue, if any, with the usage guideline within the region. This Siren usage guideline has been shared with other regions within Nebraska. These regions are looking about adopting a similar policy. This policy continues to be supported by the National Weather Service.

A new Siren was installed at the City of Kearney Meadowlark Golf course. This siren is specifically designed and used for Lightning Strike safety for individuals on the golf course. This siren can only be set off by gulf course staff. This siren is not controlled by Emergency Management or the Buffalo County Dispatch center. The siren is capable of warning for other weather type events, i.e. straight line winds, large hail and tornado activity but it will not be used for these events. There are other Sirens in the area that will provide outdoor warning for other emergency related events.

The narrowbanding of the County sirens was accomplished in November. This project was supposed to be completed in or before March before the severe weather season. The project was postponed due to other agencies using the same frequencies as the sirens were not ready to be narrowbanded in the March time frame. The sirens have been tested several times to ensure the Dispatch 911 centers would still be able to set them off when needed. \$20,000.00 of Homeland Security funds were used to complete this project.

Becoming a Storm Ready County has been a goal of the Emergency Management office for a number of years; this goal had eluded this department for a number of years for one reason or another but 2012 was the year that Buffalo County Emergency Management met this goal. There were a number of things such as warning notification devices, communication devices having a complete weather emergency plan, back up plans, spotter plans, siren usage plans and so on before being able to become a storm ready county. One of the main things that helped make Buffalo County a Storm ready county is having a complete operational walk-in ready functional Emergency Operation Center.

This project was completed at the end of 2012; however being a storm ready county is something that has to be updated and maintained annually.

Buffalo County Emergency Management worked with the Two Rivers Public Health Department on three projects specific to the health department. I work with the health department along with many other organizations and agencies on the MAPP process (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships). The MAPP was a four phase systemic process going over several community public health issues and how to address these issues over the next 5 years. Several follow up meetings have taken place after the four phase meetings. One of the committees as a result of the MAPP is the Healthy Action Committee. The Buffalo County Emergency Management Director was appointed to this committee by the Buffalo County Board at the request of the Two Rivers Public Health Director. This committee focuses on the community demographics life span and programs on how to promote healthier life styles.

Long Term Projects Started/Continued in 2012

- Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) Safety Fair
- Tri-City Medical Response system (TRIMRS) (continued)
- Regional Mass Fatality planning (continued)
- Family Assistance Center plan (completed)
- EOC Medical Table (continued)
- Morgue Operations planning (started)
- Storm Ready County (completed)
- Public Health MAPP project (continued)
- Public Health Healthy Actions program (appointed as Board member) (continued)
- EOC Emergency Management Digital Clocks installed (completed)
- Specific Local Emergency Operations Plans MFP, FAC, EOC Med table, LEOP, COOP, COG, DMP, etc. (continued)
- Medical Response Team (MRC) (Mobile MRC) making (MRC response ready) (continued)
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS 701, 702, 703 and 704 300 and 400 training (continued)
- Buffalo County Mitigation Plan. (completed)
- South Central Planning Exercise Training Region (SCPETR) 15 county Area focusing more and more on regional projects and preparedness
- Emergency Preparedness Education campaign Be Ready Nebraska Webpage (completed)

- Public Education Campaign Preparedness commercials (continued)
- I-PAWS and CMAS ready public notification (continued)
- Migration from DCC notification to BuffaloWatch.net notification and conduct training (continued)
- Functional Needs registration / campaign (continued)
- Build Mobile Office kit (completed)
- Siren Narrowbanding (completed)
- Although not an Emergency Management function Emergency Management was asked to assist in the public safety narrowbanding project (mostly completed). Sheriff's office is cleaning up narrowbanding issues (continues)

Reports/ Emergency Manuals/Plans/SOG/SOP and MOU's

Below is a list of reports, emergency manuals, plans and MOU's that have either been created or updated throughout the last year.

Plans and reports written and or reviewed

- Daily EM reports
- Monthly EM reports
- Annual EM reports
- Tier II reports
- By-laws for several of the groups and organizations under Emergency Management
- Kearney Airport Emergency plan
- Several local business/industry emergency plans
- EMPG quarterly /work plan
- COOP (Completed for Buffalo County and the City of Kearney)
- Debris plan (Started for Buffalo County and the City of Kearney)
- Mass Fatality
- Family Assistance Plan (the plan is completed; however the MOA's have not yet been approved to be sent out for signature)
- EOC Medical Table plan still in the draft planning process
- Amateur Radio Emergency plans
- LEOP (Local Emergency Operation Plan) complete review/updated 4 separate times over the last year
- Wildfire Control plan
- Siren protocol for Severe Weather and other emergency notifications
- Severe Weather Spotter Guide
- Five Dam Failure plans
- Protocol for the Mutual Aid plan
- Training guide for EOC (updated)

- Training guide for Response Unit (updated)
- Kearney School Safety Plans
- ICS Forms Manuals (three more plans completed and distributed)
- Spontaneous Volunteer Management Plan
- TICP (Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan updated twice)
- Hazardous Mitigation plan for the Central Platte River Valley (Completed after five years of planning and reviewed)
- Ice Jam Interlocal (completed)
- SCPET MOU (Completed)
- I-PAWS MOA, COG agreement Ruled of Behavior Contract (completed)
- Full Scale Exercise Plans, Controllers, Evaluators, Players and EX-Plans all written as well as the After Action report and the Implementation Plans.

2012 Exercises

- ✓ Statewide Tornado drill was conducted in Buffalo County
- ✓ Severe Weather Spotter trainings were conducted for spotters in Buffalo County
- ✓ Training and exercise / testing the Hazmat ID system
- ✓ Amateur Radio ARES Field day Exercise
- ✓ Pipeline Explosion table top exercises
- ✓ TRIMRS Hospital disaster table top exercise
- ✓ UNK ESU team active shooter exercise
- ✓ EOC medical table / Clinic workshop
- ✓ Ag Table Top Exercises for Buffalo County Veterinarians
- ✓ 22 County wide Web based Ag Exercise
- ✓ LEDRS round robin functional exercises 3
- ✓ JIS Table top exercise
- ✓ Gibbon Fire and Buffalo County Full Scale Exercise
- ✓ FAC Workshop exercise
- ✓ FAC Table top exercise
- ✓ CEMPACK Table top exercise
- ✓ Clay County Responder Table top Exercise
- ✓ Hazmat ID system Workshop

Annual Goals

Below are the goals for the past year and the upcoming year. Many of the goals from 2012 were accomplished and those that are continued have been rolled into 2013. This does not mean that they were not met in the prior year. Many of the goals were goals that need to continue into 2013 or had made good progress on and are expected to be completed in 2013.

Goals 2012

1. Continue to work with the SCPETR on regional projects to improve the region's ability to respond to, mitigate, and recover from large scale events by providing needed equipment, training and exercises to first responder agencies, volunteer organizations, and elected and appointed officials across the South Central region.
2. Complete an informational Procedures and Operations Manual for the Emergency Management office for the County Board Supervisors.
3. Continue to improve and provide public education on emergency preparedness before, during, and after an emergency event through media events, speaking engagements, handouts, notification systems and the annual safety fair.
4. Hold or participate in at least three exercises in 2012.
5. Work on having complete plans in place for Buffalo County on the EOC Medical Table and the Family Assistance Center by the end of the year.
6. Have an Emergency Continuity Of Operations Plan and Debris Management Plan in Place for Buffalo County and the City of Kearney by 2013.
7. Maintain, operate, manage, and continue to improve on the Emergency Operation Center and the response unit.
8. Review, update and distribute updates for the LEOP.

9. Continue working with the Buffalo County Hazmat team through training exercises, conferences, and equipment support.
10. Have a completed mitigation plan in place by the end of the year for Buffalo County and its participating jurisdictions.
11. Continue good working relationships with all emergency management agencies, responder agencies, volunteer organizations, private and public organizations, elected and appointed officials, and the general public at the local, state and federal levels.
12. Complete Narrow banding project for Buffalo County Emergency Management Warning Sirens.
13. Have the first phase of the public education campaign completed by the end of 2012.
14. Make Buffalo County a Storm Ready County.



Goals 2013

1. Continue to work with the SCPETR on regional projects to improve the region's ability to respond to, mitigate, and recover from large scale events by providing needed equipment, training and exercises to first responder agencies, volunteer organizations, and elected and appointed officials across the South Central region.
2. Implement monthly open house training for elected and appointed officials using the newly developed step-by-step instruction guide for the EOC.
3. Review, update, and conduct a total five year revision of the Buffalo County LEOP.
4. Continue good working relationships with all emergency management agencies, responder agencies, volunteer organizations, private and public organizations, elected and appointed officials, and the general public at the local, state and federal levels.
5. Hold or participate in at least three exercises in 2013.
6. Continue public education campaign for 2013.
7. Maintain, operate, manage, and continue to improve on the Emergency Operation Center and the response unit.
8. Put Storm Ready Signs up on major highways at the borders of Buffalo County.
9. Spend more time in the Buffalo County City of Kearney Emergency Operation Center.
10. Start working on the process of creating a full-time Deputy position (Plans Review Specialist, Volunteer Coordinator, CERT and LEPC coordinator, and NIMS manager)

Darrin Lewis,
Buffalo County Emergency Management

